7

幽麗塔

乃木坂太郎

～黒岩涙香[幽霊塔]より～

BIG COMIC SUPERIOR

スペリオール
BIG COMICS

幽麗塔

7

純粋

乃木坂太郎

小学館
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雑誌 45698-93　　小学館

What words does Marube use
to seduce Tetsuo
on the brink of death!?

A game where groups of two risk their lives in order to
find the treasure of the Ghost tower.
The pair that finds the reasure will be given half of its content.
The Amano and Yamashina pair manages to clear
the trap with the dropping ceiling.
Tesuo and Marube on the other hand, are faced with a wall-trap.
And as if that wasn't enough, Marube decides to seduce Tetsuo.

Human feelings tend to change in life threatening situations...
How will Tetsuo's heart react!?

THE GHOST TOWER

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CHAPTER 53 - CLIMB

RIP

SHHHHH

THAT WAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO REST OVER THERE FOR A WHILE.

LET'S START FROM THE RIGHT AND THEN MAKE OUR WAY TO THE LEFT.

2

IT MIGHT BE ANOTHER TRAP.

IT SEEMS TOO INVITING.

SHHHHHH

THAT RIGHT SIDE SEEMS DIFFICULT.

SHOULDN'T WE START AT THE FRONT?

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ARE THEY SERIOUSLY PLANNING ON CLIM-

THERE ARE 20 METERS TO THE TOP...

THE RIGHT SIDE HAS A LOT OF ROCKS.

SO EVEN IF WE LOSE OUR GRIP ON A SLIPPERY ROCK, WE'LL STILL BE ABLE TO GRAB ONTO ANOTHER ROCK AND AVOID FALLING DOWN.

.....

MAYBE I SHOULD ALSO GIVE IT A GO, AS WELL.

DON'T DO IT!

WE SHOULD WAIT FOR HELP HERE!!

IT'S TOO HIGH!!

NO GOOD!!

I'M SCARED!! I CAN'T CLIMB!! I'M COMING DOWN!!

I'LL JUST TRY IT A BIT...

THE FRONT SIDE SEEMS EASY.

GULP

I'M SCARED STIFF!

CLICK

I'M REALLY SCARED!! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME!!

YOU'VE HARDLY EVEN CLIMBED 2 METERS...

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

CRASH

KYAA AAA!!

WAAA!

KYAA AAAA.

GRAB

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

PLEASE !!

DON'T LET GO!

NO GOOD, NO GOOD, NO GOOD.

AH.

CRUMBLE

SLAM

SPLAT

SLIT

THUD

KYAA AAA

WE NEVER PLANNED ON DOING THAT ANYWAY.

THERE'S NO GOING BACK NOW.

I CAN'T MENTALLY PREPARE MYSELF LIKE THIS...

IT SUDDENLY GOT SO HIGH

IT...IT'S NO GOOD.

I CAN'T CLIMB!!

YOU SHOULD ALSO GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF AND START CLIMBING!!

HEY!

IT'S TOO HIGH!!

HELP ME!

FIND A ROCK, GRAB IT WITH YOUR FINGERS AND STRETCH LIKE THIS! SUPPORT YOUR BODY WITH YOUR LEGS!!

IF YOU KEEP HOLDING ON WITH YOUR HANDS LIKE THAT, YOU'LL GET TIRED FAST!!

DON'T GIVE UP!!

IT'S NO USE, HE WON'T EVEN LAST A MINUTE.

HWMY SCANS

SPLAT

BEFORE, WHEN I HAD YOU GIVE ME A BATH, YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WANTED TO KILL ME THOUGH.

THAT'S RIGHT.

.....

BE-CAUSE OF THE KISS YOU GAVE ME EAR-LIER?

I FEEL LIKE WE'RE ONE IN BODY AND SOUL.

AS I THOUGHT, OUR SKINS SHOULD TOUCH.

IN ALL AGES AND COUNTRIES, HOMOSEXUALITY OFTEN SPREAD AMONGST MEN W HO HAD TO RISK THEIR LIVES IN TIMES OF WAR -

FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE IN THE ARMY.

THEIR INSTINCTS PROBABLY TOLD THEM, THAT THE TRUST AND COLLECTIVENESS BORN FROM SURRENDERING ONE'S CHASTITY TO A MAN,

WERE NEEDED IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.

THE REASON YOU DIDN'T REJECT ME WAS PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU ALSO THOUGHT THAT WAY.

AM I RIGHT, TETSUO?

SINCE YOUR HEART

IS THAT OF A MAN.

.....

YES.

I BET ALL THE GUYS WANT YOU.

SUCH A WASTE.

YOU'D BE ABLE TO GET A LOT OF WOMEN WITH THAT FACE OF YOURS.

WERE THAT OF A MAN,

IF YOUR BODY

IN THAT CASE,

THAT'S RIGHT.

AN ETERNAL ONE...

IS FRIEND SHIP.

WHAT I WANT

HUH?

BURN YOUR FACE.

NO ONE WILL SEE YOU AS A WOMAN.

IF YOU BECOME LIKE SHIRO,

IF YOU WANT FRIENDSHIP, THAT'S THE ONLY WAY.

BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO BECOME LIKE THAT YOURSELF?

YOU WERE ABLE TO BE WITH SHIRO WHO BECAME A MONSTER,

SHHHHHH

THE OVERHANG STARTS FROM HERE.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH WANTING TO LOOK GOOD.

HOW WAS IT?

YOU SAW MY BODY IN THE BATH, RIGHT?

I TRAIN MY BODY, PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT I EAT AND MAKE SURE I GET ENOUGH SLEEP. I WORK TOWARDS LOOKING GOOD, EVERY DAY.

.....

WAS IT FIRM? DID IT LOOK LIKE THE BODY OF SOMEONE IN HIS TWENTIES?

REALLY?

IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THE BODY OF SOMEONE IN HIS FORTIES.

... YEAH,

I DON'T REACT TO A NAKED MAN'S BODY.

I'M A GUY.

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

.....

I'M THAT WAY.

EVEN AS A GUY, ONE CAN BE CHARMED BY A BEAUTIFUL MUSCULAR BODY YOU KNOW.

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THAT I DON'T MIND ABOUT SOMEONE'S GENDER

IF YOU WANT, I CAN TELL YOU THE SECRET BEHIND THESE GOOD LOOKS OF MINE

ARE YOU INTE-RESTED?

WELL, A BIT

YOU HAVE TO KEEP A MAIDEN* INSIDE YOUR HEART.

*IN THE WORD CAN ALSO MEAN A VIRGIN OR A YOUNG GIRL THAT'S WHY IT'S A BIT DIFFICULT TO TRANS-LATE THE MEANING LATER ON

A MAIDEN?

THAT'S WHY

THAT WAY, SOMETHING COMES GUSHING FROM INSIDE YOUR HEART AND MAKES YOUR BODY YOUNGER.

AND FEELING SHYNESS AND THROBBING WITH A MAIDEN'S HEART.

YOU LIVE BY LOVING BEAUTIFUL THINGS,

I ADOPTED SATOKO.

PARENTS ARE PECULIAR CREATURES.

THEY CAN SHARE THEIR CHILD'S FEELINGS AND EXPERIENCES.

I DID THE SAME.

WHEN SATOKO PICKED FLOWERS,

WHEN SHE PLAYED WITH A BEAUTIFUL DOLL, MY HEART WAS ALSO PLAYING ON THE INSIDE.

HER CONFUSION AND SHYNESS WHEN SHE [illegible] FIRST [illegible]

JUST LIKE THAT, I ALSO FELT

ON HER TWENTIETH BIRTHDAY,

SHE HAD ALREADY [illegible] STRONG.

IT'S ALREA[illegible] BY TOO LATE.

AND EXPERIENCING THE END OF [illegible] WITHOUT BUT...

I PLANNED ON DEFLOWE[illegible] SHE WAS

HAS ALREADY ENDED...

THE TIME OF HER MAIDENHOOD

.....!

YOU FUCKING PERVERT.

THERE'S NOTHING ELSE.

NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, YOU'RE ONLY GONNA KEEP GETTING OLDER.

YOU'RE DISGUSTING!!

YOU'RE FORTY, WHAT THE HELL'S WITH THIS MAIDEN TALK?

...THAT'S RIGHT, I'LL ONLY KEEP GETTING OLDER.

...HOWEVER, I REALLY WANT TO LOOK FORWARD TO THAT.

KEEP LOVING ONLY YOURSELF

UNTIL THE DAY YOU DIE!

.....

IF I HAD LOVE,

I WOULDN'T MIND GETTING OLDER.

.....

YOU'RE ONE TO SAY!!

YOU NARCIS-SIST!!

I'M NOT A NARCIS-SIST.

SE-RIOUSLY.

SINCE I

FOR 26 YEARS NOW.

I'VE BEEN LOVING ONLY ONE WOMAN

YOU'RE LYING

SHHHHHH

SHHHHHH

.....

SHHHHHH

SHHHHHH

THE SOUND

OF A MACHINE?

.....

SHHHHHH

BUBBLE

BUBBLE

HUH?

DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING BESIDES THE WATERFALL?

SHHHHHH

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

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RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

.....

IT STOPPED!!

WHY TO CRUSH SOMEONE'S SPIRIT!!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT ANY CLIMBING EQUIPMENT.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

WE CAN'T MOVE ON THE CEILING LIKE A SPIDER!

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

I WILL

WILL YOU BE ANGRY IF I LET GO?

THAT WAY WE MIGHT GET ON TOP OF THIS CEILING.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO GO AROUND ON YOUR SIDE?

IN THE SPACE BETWEEN THE CEILING AND THE WALL.

IT SEEMS LIKE OUR FINGERS COULD FIT

THE WALL IS TOO SMOO-TH!

IT'S IMPO-SIBLE.

WE'D FALL BEFORE MAKING IT EVEN A METER.

BUT THERE'S NOW WAY WE COULD SUPPORT OUR WEIGHT WITH JUST OUR FINGERS.

4

THERE'S NO WAY.

THE WATER FROM THE WATERFALL IS STRONG AND THERE'S MOSS GROWING ON THE STONES. THERE'S A 120% CHANCE WE'D FALL.

THIS WAY IS ALSO IMPOSS-IBLE.

HOW DOES IT LOOK ON YOUR END?

FUTUREWORLD SCANS

IT SOUNDS DANGEROUS BUT,

I THINK WE SHOULD PROCEED ON YOUR SIDE.

WE'RE STUCK...

THAT'S THE ONLY WAY.

WE'LL PUT OUR HANDS IN THE CRACK, AND PLACE OUR LEGS ON THE ROCKS ON THE CEILING.

I'LL HAVE TO REFUSE.

HOW DOES THAT SOUND?

WE SHOULD MOVE UP THE CEILING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

SINCE IT WILL TAKE A LOT OF EFFORT AND STRENGTH,

I'M IN MY FORTIES YOU KNOW.

JUST THINK ABOUT IT.

AND I'VE PUT ON SOME WEIGHT...

I GO TO THE GYM, BUT ONE'S STRENGTH DECLINES OVER THE YEARS.

6

ISN'T THERE AN EASIER ROUTE?

SO DON'T PUT ME IN THE SAME CATEGORY AS YOU WITH YOUR YOUNG, SLENDER BODY.

I'M AT MY LIMIT.

I'VE BEEN ACTING ALL COOL BUT,

THERE ISN'T ONE!

.....

IF WE GET OVER THERE, WE'LL BE ABLE TO REST FOR A WHILE.

THERE'S A LARGE GAP, DO YOU SEE IT?

TAKE A LOOK OVER THERE.

PLEASE DON'T GET ALL WEAK ON ME NOW.

BECAUSE IF YOU CAN'T DO THIS, I'M GOING TO DIE, TOO!

THAT'S RIGHT.

.....

YOU AREN'T YOUR USUAL OVERCONFIDENT SELF...

ABOUT THAT...

I THOUGHT THAT SHOWING YOU MY WEAK SIDE WOULD MAKE YOU GET ALONG WITH ME BETTER.

AND, YOU SEEM TO BE IN A BETTER MOOD WHEN YOU ARE THE STRONGER ONE.

BUT BEING AT MY LIMIT WAS TRUE, YOU KNOW.

STILL ...

SEEING SOMEONE LIKE ME ACTING ALL WEAK

SHOULD'VE MADE YOU THINK I'M A BIT ADORABLE.

DID IT?

.....

.....!!

THIS GUY SHOULD DIE!

CHANGE OF COURSE IS THE MOST DANGEROUS PART!!

THIS ...

I NEED SOMETHING TO GRAB ON TO...

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

THAT WAY, IF YOU SLIP,

YOUR BODY WON'T SHAKE THAT MUCH, AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET YOUR POSITION BACK.

BEND YOUR LEGS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

AND MAKE YOUR BODY SMALL.

IF YOU PLACE YOUR FEET OVER HERE,

YOU'LL BE STABLE

THIS'LL WORK.

THERE!

GRAB

GRAB

THE NEXT HOLD IS FAR"

.....

HEY, DON'T PULL

I CAN'T REACH IT

A BIT FARTHER..."

HEY!

CLANK

RATTLE

RATTLE

CLANK

CRUMBLE

CRUMBLE

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IT WON'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER.

PLEASE GET BACK UP!!

I THOUGHT MY SHOULDER WAS GOING TO DISLOCATE.

.....

...I PEED A LITTLE.

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

.....

I'M SORRY.

IT WAS MY FAULT FOR PULLING TOO MUCH.

IT MIGHT NOT BE TOO BAD,

WE WERE SAVED THANKS TO THE HANDCUFFS.

...SEEMS LIKE WE'LL BE ABLE TO REST A BIT.

HUH?

IF A HANDSOME MIDDLE-AGED MAN SUCH AS MYSELF,

AND A WELL-MANNERED, GOOD LOOKING YOUNG MAN SUCH AS YOURSELF WERE TO BE CUFFED TOGETHER,

WE'D STAND OUT NO MATTER WHERE WE'D GO. WE'D BE POPULAR.

WE'D BECOME THE STARS OF THE WRITERS' SALONS.

IF WE'RE STUCK TOGETHER LIKE THIS FOREVER.

I'D BE FINE WITH IT.

AFTER ALL, IN THE END,

I'LL PASS ON THAT.

BUT THEN WE'D ALSO HAVE TO SHARE BATHS AND GO TO THE TOLIET TOGETHER.

EVERYONE SOILS THEIR PANTS.

GUTENWORLD SCANS

SO THAT'S WHY

YOU WANT TO HAVE ME - A YOUNG MAN BY YOUR SIDE AS DECORATION!

I'M ACTUALLY QUITE FUN TO BE AROUND,

REALLY, I AM.

WOULD BE TAKING A JOKE TOO FAR.

THINKING THAT I CAN SERIOUSLY CONTINUE LOOKING HANDSOME AS I AGE

THERE'S NOTHING IN IT FOR ME!

WOULDN'T THAT BE ONLY BENEFICIAL TO YOU?!

TETSUO.

I'D GIVE YOU THAT WHICH YOU MOST DESIRE,

IN A FAMILY REGISTER.

YOU'D BE LISTED AS A MAN

:
:
:
:
:
:
:
:
!!

BUT YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T WANT TO KILL ANYONE IF POSSIBLE, AM I RIGHT?

IF YOU WANTED TO KILL SOMEONE AND TAKEN THEIR PLACE YOU COULD'VE CHOSEN ANYONE.

BUT I WAS SLIGHTLY MISTAKEN.

I THOUGHT YOU PLANNED ON KILLING AMANO AND TAKING HIS PLACE IN HIS FAMILY,

YOU PLANNED ON FINDING THE TREASURE,

AND BUYING THE FAMILY REGISTER,

FROM HIM.

AM I RIGHT?

IF IT'S AMANO,

HE WOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS GIVING YOU HIS SOCIAL STATUS FOR MONEY.

HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING,

NOR HAS ANY INTEREST IN GOING TO VOTE.

AS LONG AS HE HAD ENOUGH MONEY TO PLAY FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE, HE'D BE IN HEAVEN.

HE WOULDN'T EVEN THINK OF EXTORTING YOU.

THAT'S WHY YOU CHOSE HIM.

AM I RIGHT?

ALREADY DEAD.
CAN START CALLING YOURSELF

GET AN INSURAN-CE CARD

AND HE ACCEPTED MY SECRET AS A GIFT.

I'D VOTE.

I WANTED TO SHOW THAT PICTURE TO SOMEONE,

AND TELL THEM IT'S A PICTURE OF ME WHEN I WAS YOUNG.

I WAS THE SAME WAY.

EVERY-ONE

WANTS TO BECOME SOMEONE ELSE WHEN THEY'RE YOUNG.

I UNDER-STAND

BUT.

YOU'RE

WHO ENOUGH AS YOU ARE NOW.

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GET OFF THE CENTER

TETSUO.

YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO BECOME A MAN.

YOU'LL REMAIN A PURE BOY FOREVER.

INSIDE,

AND

THAT A 14-YEAR OLD WOULD LOOK FOR.

YOU WANT THE KIND OF PURE, GENUINE FRIENDSHIP

YOU PROBABLY KNEW THAT AMANO ONLY BETRAYED YOU BECAUSE I THREATENED HIM.

DESPITE THAT, YOU STILL DIDN'T FORGIVE HIM.

SO THERE'S NO WAY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HAVE THAT KIND OF FRIENDSHIP.

BUT YOUR BODY IS THAT OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN,

I THINK THAT'S BEAUT-IFUL.

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LIVE WITHOUT EVER MATURING INTO A MAN.

HE WOULD BE SATIS-FIED WITH A MODERATE FRIENDSHIP WHERE HE'D OCCASION-ALLY GET HURT.

IF IT WERE HIM, HE WOULD FORGIVE YOUR BETRAYAL.

AMANO IS DIFF-ERENT.

BUT,

.....

UTERWORLD SCANS

THAT BOY

AMANO WILL GROW UP

INTO A MAN

.....

AND CHANGE THE WORLD THAT WAY

AND I WILL BE NO MORE

.....

LUTLY SCANS

WE'LL SOON BE CAUGHT IN THE SMOKE"

THE FIRE IS SPREAD-ING ALONG THE WALL.

WHAT A

IT MAKES IT SO EASY FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE'S NO WAY TO REWIND TIME

THE CLOCK TOWER SURE IS NICE.

OUR BREAK IS OVER.

.....

Grab

THE WATER FROM THE FALLS IS COMING DOWN!!

THIS IS BAD!

DON'T RUSH THAT MUCH!!

.....!

IF THE WATER REACHES US IT'LL BE TOO SLIPPERY TO HOLD ON AND WE'LL FALL!!

HURRY!!

FLOP

FLOP

SHHH

SHHH

SLIP

GRAB

... MADE IT!!

16

MOTHERWORLD SCANS

THAT WAS DAMN CLOSE.
WE MADE IT.

YOUR BODY AND HEART, HAA

I LIKE THEM JUST THE WAY THEY ARE.

YUP.

IS IT NO GOOD IF IT'S NOT ME?

HAA

HAA

ONCE IN MY LIFE.

I'VE ONLY FELT THAT WAY

I KNEW YOU WERE THE ONE.

FROM THE FIRST MOMENT WE MET AT THE BAR,

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WAS THAT

WHEN YOU MET THAT WOMAN YOU SAID YOU LOVE?

I WONDER,

WHERE IS SHE, WHAT IS SHE DOING?

SHE'S

PROBABLY ALREADY DEAD.

ONE DAY,

AND DISAPPEARED IN THIS GREAT TOWER.

SHE SUDDENLY APPEARED BEFORE ME WEARING A GRAY DRESS.

A GRAY...

WOMAN.

.....

SOMEWHERE IN THIS MAZE.

WE GOT TRAPPED BY THE CEILING.

SO, ONLY THIS ONE PART GOT RAISED UP...

I THOUGHT WE WOULD BE TRAPPED TILL WE DIED.

I WONDER HOW MUCH TIME HAS PASSED.

OUT THE PLACE A BIT WHILE YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS.

AWAKE!!

LET'S GO.

I CAN'T BE HELPED.

I WANTED TO GO OUT AND GET SOME EQUIPMENT BUT...

WE CAN ONLY MOVE FORWARD.

.....

.....

DID TETSUO ALREADY MAKE IT INSIDE?

LET GO"

NOOOOO

STOP IT!

A WO-MAN'S VOICE

.....

KYAAAAA!!

IT'S SATOKO'S VOICE!!

SLAP

HEY.

HEH

STAY STILL-

SLAP

HEY.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

UNDER-STAND?

MAKE ANOTHER SOUND AND I'LL START BREAKING YOUR FIN-GERS ONE BY ONE.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE-

HAGH.

NOW! OR I'LL FILL YOU WITH LEAD!

GET AWAY FROM HER YOU BASTARDS!!

WAAAAA.

UNGH!!

HIYAHA!

UNDERWORLD SCANS

CRACKLE

GYAAAAA.

GHOST

SUITS YOU RIGHT!! I SPILT YOUR PAINT!!

NOW!!

GET LOST.

IF YOU TOLD ME TO DO IT AGAIN, I PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO.

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE IT ACTUALLY CAME IN HANDY. HAHAHA.

WE HAD TO LEARN IT IN ORDER TO APPREHEND CRIMINALS

HAA

THAT WAS AIKIDO.

HA

...YOU'RE AMAZING, YAMASHINA-SAN.

HA

HA

THERE AREN'T ANY BULLETS LEFT

.....

CLICK

CLICK

TAP

ARE YOU ALONE?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE INSPECTOR?

THE INSPECTOR GOT MURDERED...

A WEIRD KNIFE?

WE GOT ATTACKED BY A MAN WHO WAS HIDING HIS FACE AND HAD A WEIRD KNIFE...,

NO

BY THE GUYS THAT JUST LEFT?

!!

"SHIBAN-MUSHI"'S KNIFE.

.....

IT HAD A HANDLE THAT LOOKED LIKE THIS...

"SHIBAN-MUSHI".

...SO THAT REALLY WAS

IT'S DANGEROUS, YOU SHOULD COME WITH US.

SATOKO.

AND HE ALSO HAS THE INSPECTOR'S GUN...

THAT'S TROUBLESOME.

SO "SHIBAN-MUSHI"'S HERE...

.....

DO YOU WANT TO SWITCH [illegible] WITH ME?

OK.

.....

DON'T TOUCH ME.

IT SEEMS LIKE SHE CAN'T EVEN TRUST US.

A LOT HAS HAPPENED...

IS IT A TRAP?

WHAT'S [illegible]?

SCANS

I CAN SEE THE TREASURE.

SO IT REALLY EXISTS...

A WO-MAN

THERE'S SOME-ONE DOWN THERE.

THERE'S A WOMAN

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SOUND

FOUND THE TREASURE BEFORE US?

SO A WOMAN IN GREY

WE NEED TO HURRY THERE!!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO!?

SHE'S NOT MOVING... WAS THERE EVEN A WOMAN WEARING SUCH CLOTHES?

...BUT, ISN'T IT A BIT WEIRD?!

2

EVEN THOUGHT WE SAVED YOU BEFORE, WE'RE STILL COMPETING WITH EACH OTHER.

IT'S HARD FOR ME TO SAY THIS BUT,

.....

SATOKO-SAN.

ANYWAYS, LET'S HURRY!

OR WILL YOU JOIN US AND THROW AWAY YOUR PAINT, STEPPING DOWN FROM THE TREASURE HUNT?

WILL YOU PROCEED ON YOUR OWN?

YES?

...YOU BE QUIET.

YAMASHINA-SAN!!

SO THERE'S NO WAY WE'RE SETTLING ON A JOINT RELATIONSHIP.

WE SACRIFICED MANY LIVES TO GET TO WHERE WE ARE.

EVEN IF YOU THROW AWAY YOUR PAINT, I'LL GIVE YOU A SHARE OF THE TREASURE. I PROMISE!

EVEN BETRAYED TETSUO-SAN...

...DETECTIVE.

DETECTIVE, COME ALONE

COME HERE

DON'T HIDE.

AND TEAM UP WITH ME ?

WOULD YOU ABANDON AMANO-SAN.

NO, YOU CAN EVEN GET A LARGER SHAPE"

I'LL GIVE YOU JINBAEUE'S SHAPE"

BUT ONCE I'VE CALMED DOWN .

NOT RIGHT HERE AND RIGHT NOW—

YOU CAN ALSO HAVE ME IF YOU WANT...

AND .

WAAAAAH!

PRESS

8

IF I HAD TO HOLD SOMEONE, I'D RATHER HOLD AMANO!!

UGH

THAT'S WHY WOMEN ARE !!

DON'T PRESS AGAINST ME WITH THOSE DISGUSTING THINGS!!

NO WAY

.....

STOP

STOP

STOP

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

.....

HE'S LIKE THAT, BUT HE ISN'T A BAD PERSON.

LET'S GO, AMANO.

HA

YAMA-SHINA-SAN"

BUT WHAT I SAID ABOUT GIVING YOU A PART OF THE TREASURE WAS TRUE.

I WON'T DENY THAT I BETRAYED TETSUO,

AMANO-SAN

.....

LET'S GO TOGE-THER

EVER SINCE WE ENTERED THE TOWER, WHY DO YOU ASK?

YEAH

WERE YOU WITH YAMASHINA-SAN THE WHOLE TIME?

I DID LOSE MY CONSCIOUSNESS FOR A WHILE.

TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST.

I HEARD THE INSPECTOR YELL SOMETHING.

WHEN WE GOT ATTACKED BY "SHIBANMJSM"

SO IT WAS YOU

IS WHAT HE SAID

.....

YEAH

YE-

BUT IF YOU WERE TO-GETHER, IT'S ALRIGHT

WAS SOME-ONE THE INSPECTOR KNEW

"SHIBUYA NIGHT"

THAT SHE'S STILL ALIVE AND SHE'S "SHIBANMUSHI"?

COULD IT BE POSS-IBLE.

IF THAT WERE THE CASE I'D BE GLAD.

I WONDER WHAT SHE WAS LIKE

WHO KNOWS

WHAT WAS SHE LIKE?

THE WOMAN WEARING THE GREY DRESS.

BASED ON WHAT?

.....

BUT I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT THE CULPRIT IS A POLICE OFFICER, RIGHT?

WHICH WAS TO BE EXPECTED AFTER SUCH A MURDER TOOK PLACE. NO ONE EXCEPT THE POLICE WAS ABLE TO COME CLOSE.

AFTER THE DEATH OF THAT REPORTER, THE TOWER WAS UNDER CONSTANT POLICE SURVEILLANCE.

THERE'S A BUNCH OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.

SINCE HE WOULDN'T GET THE CHANCE TO SEARCH FOR THE TREASURE OTHERWISE. A KID WOULD'VE KNOWN THAT.

IF THE CULPRIT WERE A NORMAL PERSON, HE WOULD'VE KILLED THE REPORTER OUTSIDE THE TOWER,

AND HE KNEW SHIRO WAS UNDERNEATH THE MANSION BECAUSE...

IT WAS BECAUSE HE WANTED THE ADVANTAGE OF SEARCHING THE TOWER WITHOUT BEING OBSTRUCTED.

AND WHY DID HE PIN THE BODY ON THE CLOCKTOWER?

OUTERWORLD SCANS

SINCE HE HAD NO REASON TO KILL A MERE MONSTER.

"SHIBAN-MUSHI" WENT TO KILL SHIRO.

THE TWO PROBABLY KNEW EACH-OTHER FROM BEFORE, OR ELSE HE WOULDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THAT MONSTER WAS SHIRO.

HE SAW HIM IN THE PICTURE TAKEN BY THE FORENSICS.

KNEW ABOUT "SHIBAN-MUSHI"'S TRUE ID-ENTITY.

SHIRO ALSO

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT, NO ONE WOULD'VE NOTICED HE WAS THERE.

THAT'S PROBABLY WHERE THEY MET.

WHEN HE WAS A DRUG ADDICT, HE GOT ARRESTED COUNTLESS TIMES.

ALWAYS WORE A LONG, SWELTERING COAT,

"SHIBAN-MUSHI"

HE CREATED AN ELUSIVE PHAN-TOM

BY TAKING OFF THE COAT AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME,

BECAUSE HE EITHER WORE A SPECIAL DETECTIVE SUIT,

OR A POLICE UNIFORM UNDER-NEATH

...!

BUT,

SOME-THING DOESN'T ADD UP...

HE COULD'VE EASILY GOTTEN RID OF ANY EVIDENCE.

YET,

IF "SHIBAN-MUSHI" IS A POLICE OFFICER, HE SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO ALL THE INFORMATION REGARDING THE INVESTIGATION,

WELL, TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE DEATH OF THE OLD WOMAN.

WHY IS HE COMMITTING SO MANY CRIMES?

BUT NOW HE'S TOO IMPATIENT, IT'S WEIRD!

...EXACTLY, HE WAITED FOR TWO YEARS,

WHAT'S THE REASON FOR IT?

BECAUSE THE YEAR 1954 IS ABOUT TO END SOON.

THAT'S

IT WILL END...

..THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU TRYING TO SAY THE WORLD WILL END THIS YEAR?

DON'T MESS WITH ME!

WILL END THIS YEAR.

THE KOBE CITY POLICE

THE CITY POLICE WILL BECOME A SUBORDINATE ORGANIZATION

STARTING NEXT YEAR, THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE MOVED TO THE PREFECTURAL POLICE.

THE KOBE-CITY POLICE WAS EXEMPT FROM IT TILL NOW BUT...

STARTING THIS YEAR, PREFECTURAL POLICE ORGANIZATIONS GOT ESTABLISHED OVER THE COUNTRY.

SO I DECIDED TO CREATE THIS EVENT

THAT'S WHY THIS IS ALSO THE LAST YEAR WHEN I CAN PULL OFF SOMETHING LIKE THIS,

THE CITY POLICE WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO ACT ON IT'S OWN

SO "SHIBAN-MUSHI" WANTS TO GET EVERY-THING IN ORDER BEFORE THAT HAPP-ENS

AND THE POLICE CAME RIGHT AWAY.

A POLICE OFFICER...

.....

GUTENBERG SCANS

I'LL GO CHECK AHEAD.

YOU TWO STAY OVER HERE.

HE'S ALSO TAKING YOU INTO CONSID-ERATION BY GOING TO CHECK IT OUT.

THE PATH AHEAD MIGHT BE DANGER-OUS,

DON'T UNDERSTAND MEN WITH HIS PREFER-ENCES.

...I

IF SHE KNEW ABOUT TETSUO,

IT'S NO GOOD... NO MATTER WHAT.

... MORE LIKE ...

WHAT WOULD SHE THINK OF HIM...?

I DON'T WANT TO SEE TETSUO GETTING HURT ANY FURTHER...

ACCEPT TETSUO?

EH?

KEKEKE, THERE'S NO WAY THE TWO OF US WOULD STEP DOWN JUST LIKE THAT,

THERE ARE JUST TWO OF THEM...

THIS.

OH.

.....

22

DAMN..

BLOB

BLOB

PO..
POLICE...

.....

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Ch - 57 That Girl

COULD IT BE ...

YA-MASHINA -SAN IS TAKING A LONG TIME.

EH?

.....

IT'S THE TWO FROM BEFO -RE!!

THE HELL IS THIS?

A? ... UWAAAA!!

SEEMS THEM EIGHT

.....

I MUST'VE GONE AROUND IN A CIRCLE AND ENDED UP BACK HERE

WOW

THEY WERE DONE IN BY A KNIFE

...! IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY FELL FROM A TREE

SHIGAN-NUSHI MIGHT BE CLOSE

SHI-

HE'S A COMPLETE LUNATIC.

HE'S INDISCRIMINATELY KILLING PEOPLE

THEN 'SHIBAN-MUSHI' ISN'T A LUNATIC.

IF WHAT YOU'VE SAYING IS TRUE,

I THINK HE'S DOING THAT TO CREATE A CONSTELLATION.

THE WAY HE'S DOING IT IS BRUTAL, THOUGH.

HE'S KILLING PEOPLE ACCORDING TO HIS PLAN.

THAT'S RIGHT.

NO, IT'S WEIRD.

THEN IT JUST MEANS HE'LL DO IT WITH-OUT WAVER-ING.

IT MAY LOOK BRUTAL, BUT IF MURDER IS NECESSARY FOR HIM TO REACH HIS GOAL,

TYING UP THE KID AND KILLING THE MOTHER,

KILLING ALL THOSE PEOPLE AT FUHENBOKU'S HOUSE ... !!

HE COULD'VE KILLED AMANO-KUN, BUT HE ONLY STABBED HIS THIGH.

WHEN I WAS TOGETHER WITH SHIRO AND AMANO-KUN,

IS HE JUST ACTING ON A WHIM?

WHY WAS HE SATIS-FIED WITH JUST THAT?

AND, WHILE HE WAS BUSY DOING THAT, THE THIRD PERSON WOULD RUN AWAY.

IF HE'D KILLED AMANO, HE'D ALSO HAVE HAD TO TAKE CARE OF A SECOND PERSON.

NO, I'D DO THE SAME IF I WERE HIM.

... HOW-EVER,

IF ONE OF THEIR FRIENDS WAS IN-JURED,

THE OTHERS WOULDN'T RUN AND LEAVE HIM BEHIND.

HE TIED UP THE KID FOR THE SAME REASON.

'SHIBANMUSHI' KNEW YOU WERE SOME-ONE WHO WOULDN'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH WHILE SOME-ONE ELSE GOT KILLED.

.....

WAS IT,

BY OP-ERATING THE CLOCK TOWER ...

I RISKED MY IDENTITY BEING RE-VEALED ...

WHEN HE WAS TIED UP TO THE CLOCK TOWER ... ?

BECAUSE I SAVED AMANO-KUN,

.....

WAS THAT ALL?

ARE YOU SAYING THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE?

'SHIBANMUSHI' REALIZED THAT RIKA HAD RETURNED TO THE CLOCK TOWER.

BECAUSE YOU OPERATED THE CLOCK TO SAVE AMANO,

.....

HE HAD TO SILENCE THE GIRL WHO KNEW THE TRUTH ABOUT THE OLD WOMAN'S MURDER ... !!

THAT MUST'VE MADE HIM PANIC.

.....

AND THAT REPORTER WAS A BEAUTY.

THAT SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL ...

HE ONLY KNEW ONE THING ...

BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT SHE LOOKED LIKE.

... A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN SNEAKING INTO THE CLOCK TOWER AT NIGHT IN ORDER TO INVESTIGATE ...

IT'S A POSSIBILITY.

I'M JUST SAYING THAT'S WHAT MIGHT'VE HAPPENED.

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT HE KILLED HER BECAUSE HE THOUGHT SHE WAS ME?

HIS TARGET WAS A YOUNG WOMAN CONNECTED TO THE MANSION.

BUT, THE ONE WHO GOT ATTACKED IN THE MAZE UNDER THE MANSION WAS ALSO A WOMAN.

THAT'S PROBABLY THE REASON WHY HE TIED THE FEMALE REPORTER UP TO THE TOWER NAKED.

IF THAT'S TRUE ...

THEN IT'S POSSIBLE HE'S HARBORING A HATRED AND DISGUST TOWARD ALL WOMEN.

I KNOW SOMEONE LIKE THAT

WHO'S CONNECTED TO THE INVESTIGATION.

SOMEONE WHO WON'T EVEN BE TESTED BY A WOMAN

[WAIT. TEN]

.....

YOUR ACTIONS?

.....?

WHO'S

YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIGURE IT OUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT MY ACTIONS.

NEVER LET ANY MEN INSIDE MY HOUSE.

I

WAS GAY ...

THAT THAT DE-TEC-TVE...

IF HE DIDN'T, HE WOULDN'T HAVE LET A YOUNG MAN INTO THE HOUSE ...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT.

.....

.....

MAR-UBE ...

HE KNEW.

ALL GUYS SHOULD JUST DIE ..."

.....

THAT PERVERT AS A WONDER-FUL OLDER BROTHER.

TO THINK THAT I SAW

I'M AN IDIOT.

SO LET'S TRY GOING LEFT THIS TIME"

LAST TIME I TURNED RIGHT AND WENT AROUND IN A CIRCLE.

BUT, THE TREA-SURE WAS DOWN ...

HUH?

LET'S GO UP"

UP.

SAY, AMANO.

.....

WHAT WILL YOU USE THE MONEY FOR?

THAT'S WHY I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER TO GO UP.

IT WAS SHOWN TO US SO THAT WE'D GO DOWN.

EH ... ?

.....

AH.

OF COURSE, I'D ALSO GIVE SOME TO SATOKO-SAN!

I'D GIVE SOME OF IT TO THE KID WHOSE MOTHER GOT KILLED AT THE TOWER ...

HMM ... FIRST I WOULD COVER THE COSTS OF HANAZONO -SAN'S MOTHER'S HOSPITAL FEES AND CARE.

I'D BUY BOOKS AND WATCH MOVIES ...

SOME WOULD GO TO THE GRANNY WHOSE PLACE GOT BURNT DOWN ...

WHAT ELSE?

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

SEEMS LIKE YOU'D HAVE TOO MUCH TO SPEND.

LIKE YOU SAID BEFORE?

WILL YOU BUY A COUNTRY OR AN ISLAND

I .....

HE'LL CHASE AFTER YOUNG BOYS THERE

FUU KYAA

DON'T TELL ME

I'LL CREATE A PUBLISHING COMPANY.

I DON'T HAVE ANY LITERARY TALENT.

BUT I'LL GATHER MANY GIFTED PEOPLE AND HAVE THEM WRITE BOOKS.

BOOKS ABOUT DEVIANTS.

LIKE ME

OUTERWORLD SCANS

..THAT'S RIGHT!

WE CAN BE WRITTEN ABOUT IN STORIES, TOO

NOT LIKE THOSE REPORTS ON PERVERTS YOU FIND IN KASUTORI MAGAZINES.

I WANT TO TEACH PEOPLE

THAT WE ARE ALSO HUMAN AND THAT WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXIST IN THIS SOCIETY.

IF WE COULD GET SOCIETY TO THINK MORE LIBERALLY ABOUT GENDER,

IT WOULD REACH PEOPLE'S HEARTS.

IF WE WERE DEPICTED WELL THERE,

THAT WE ALSO HAVE OUR PRIDE.

THEN EVERYONE WILL UNDERSTAND,

THAT SOUNDS ... GREAT!

... YEAH.

I WANT TO CHANGE THIS WORLD.

... NO MATTER HOW MANY DECADES IT TAKES,

BUT, SOON MANGA WILL ALSO INCLUDE TOPICS AIMED AT ADULTS.

EVEN THOUGH RIGHT NOW ONLY KIDS READ THAT ...

IT MIGHT BE GOOD TO PUT IT INTO MANGA

...SAY, TETSUO,

I DID.

I DON'T YOU ALSO THINK

THAT'S A WONDERFUL DREAM?

HIM?

.....

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TRUST MY REASONING.

BUT,

I DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF,

THEN, THAT GUY'S 'SHIBAN-MUSHI'?

THAT'S RIGHT.

I ALSO HAVE AN IDEA ABOUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED WITH THE OLD WOMAN TWO YEARS AGO.

BY THE WAY,

WHAT I THINK HAPPENED BACK THEN

STILL THERE'S YOU,

YOU LOOKED AT THE CLOCK TOWER FROM THE WINDOW IN YOUR ROOM,

ON THAT STORMY NIGHT TWO YEARS AGO,

AND YOU SAW FUJIMIYA TATSU TIED UP TO THE CLOCK.

SO YOU RAN OUT IN ORDER TO SAVE HER!!

AM I RIGHT?

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CHAPTER-HOUSE — 10 MINUTES

2

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU JUST SAID?

YOU...

I DO.

.....

TETSUO,

IT WASN'T YOU.

THE PERSON WHO TIED FUJIMIYA TATSU TO THE TOWER,

IT WOULD BE QUITE STRANGE FOR SOMEONE CONFESSING TO A CRIME TO HAVE GOTTEN RID OF THE EVIDENCE.

THOUGH MANY OF YOUR FINGERPRINTS WERE FOUND AT THE CLOCK TOWER,

THERE WEREN'T ANY ON THE CLOCK'S HANDS.

ARE YOU SAYING I'M INNOCENT...?

THEN,

NOT AT ALL.

THIS CONVERSATION HAS ONLY JUST STARTED.

THE CULPRIT IN QUESTION WAS WITHOUT A DOUBT AIMING TO GET THE TREASURE.

THE PERSON WHO TIED FUJIMIYA TATSU TO THE CLOCK TOWER THAT NIGHT TWO YEARS AGO,

WAS PROBABLY THE ONE YOU CALL 'SHIBANMUSHI'

4

EVEN I WOULD TALK IF FACED WITH SOMETHING AS HORRIBLE AS THAT.

HE MUST HAVE TIED HER TO THE TOWER IN ORDER TO GET INFORMATION REGARDING THE TREASURE.

—THAT'S RIGHT.

SINCE THE MOVEMENT OF THE MAZE IS LINKED TO THE CLOCK TOWER'S MOVEMENT.

HE PROBABLY WANTED TO KNOW HOW TO STOP THE CLOCK TOWER...

I BET...

FUTEKIWORLD SCANS

I DON'T

NO

YOU DON'T THINK THAT'S THE TRUTH?

HE KILLED HER IN ORDER TO FIND OUT THE SECRET OF THE CLOCK TOWER

'SHIBANMUSHI' HAD A MOTIVE TO TIE MY MOTHER TO THE CLOCK!

INSTEAD OF KILLING HER IT WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER TO JUST HAVE HER SHOW HIM THE WAY ONCE INSIDE.

IT WAS A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT THERE WAS A MAZE INSIDE THE TOWER.

AND, THERE'S ANOTHER THING. IT WAS ONLY AFTER SHE WAS MURDERED THAT SHIRO'S FACE GOT BURNT AND HE WAS LEFT TO DIE.

EITHER WAY, HE WOULD'VE HAD NO REASON TO KILL HER.

NEVER PLANNED ON KILLING ANYONE TO BEGIN WITH.

I'VE COME TO THE CONCLUSION,

SINCE IT HAD BECOME A HUGE INCIDENT,

MUSHI' HAD NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO SEAL SHIRO'S MOUTH.

AFTER ALL, SHE HAD PLENTY OF OTHER ASSETS.

AND SHE TOLD HIM EVERYTHING.

HE WOULD'VE BEEN A SIMPLE ROBBER.

IF HE'D HAD TATSU LEAD HIM INSIDE AND THEN STOLEN THE TREASURE,

THAT [illegible] HADN'T PLANNED.

NO. CAUSE AT FIRST I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL HER.

BUT THEN WHY DID SHE DIE?

XIII

SHE MET YOUR EYES

SO, SHE BELIEVED HELP WAS ON THE WAY.

THERE WOULD BE NO REASON TO TELL THE SECRET.

AND IF HELP WAS COMING,

SHE KEPT HER MOUTH SHUT

SO, DESPITE THE STATE SHE WAS IN,

IS THAT SO?

.....

YOU'RE JUST GUESSING

EVEN WHEN SHE WAS GETTING DESPERATE, SHE PROBABLY SAID NOTHING.

'SHIBAN-MUSHI' WOULD'VE PROBABLY STOPPED IT.

IF SHE'D TOLD HIM HOW TO STOP THE CLOCK TOWER,

AFTER ALL, IF HE DIDN'T, THE BELL WOULD ECHO THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND CALL ATTENTION.

PROBABLY BECAUSE SHE NEVER TOLD HIM HOW TO STOP IT.

IN THE END, THE BELL DID STRIKE 12.

AND THE GIRL IS CLIMBING UP THE TOWER TO SAVE HER.

THE OLD WOMAN IS KEEPING HER MOUTH SHUT,

OUTERWORLD SCANS

SOMEONE ELSE MIGHT COME.

IF THERE'S A FIGHT I MIGHT LEAVE BEHIND SOME EVIDENCE.

.....

I CAN JUST WATCH HER OUT

IF SHE STOPS THE CLOCK,

IT S DARK ENOUGH IN HERE TO EASILY FIND A PLACE TO HIDE.

STOP THE CLOCK...

YOU DIDN'T STOP IT.

BUT,

I DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME ...

.....

TO THE VERY END,

HE BELIEVED YOU WOULD SAVE HER.

THAT'S A LIE.

THAT'S WHY THE BELL RANG.

YOU STOPPED THE CLOCK JUST A BIT AFTER MIDNIGHT.

INTERWORLD SCANS

EVEN IF YOU KEPT TRIPPING OR STOPPED FOR SHORT BREAKS.

IF YOU WENT TO SAVE HER, EVEN IF YOU WERE SLOW, YOU SHOULD HAVE MADE IT THERE BEFORE 11:50.

IF YOU HURRY, YOU CAN MAKE IT FROM THE MANSION TO THE TOWER IN 7 OR 8 MINUTES.

EVEN THOUGH YOU RAN WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT.

YOU MIGHT BE INNOCENT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IT'S POSSIBLE SHE DIED,

WHAT I'M SAYING IS,

IF YOU HAD AT LEAST 10 MINUTES TO STOP THE CLOCK, BUT YOU DIDN'T,

THEN WITHOUT A DOUBT, YOU HAD EVERY INTENTION OF LETTING HER DIE.

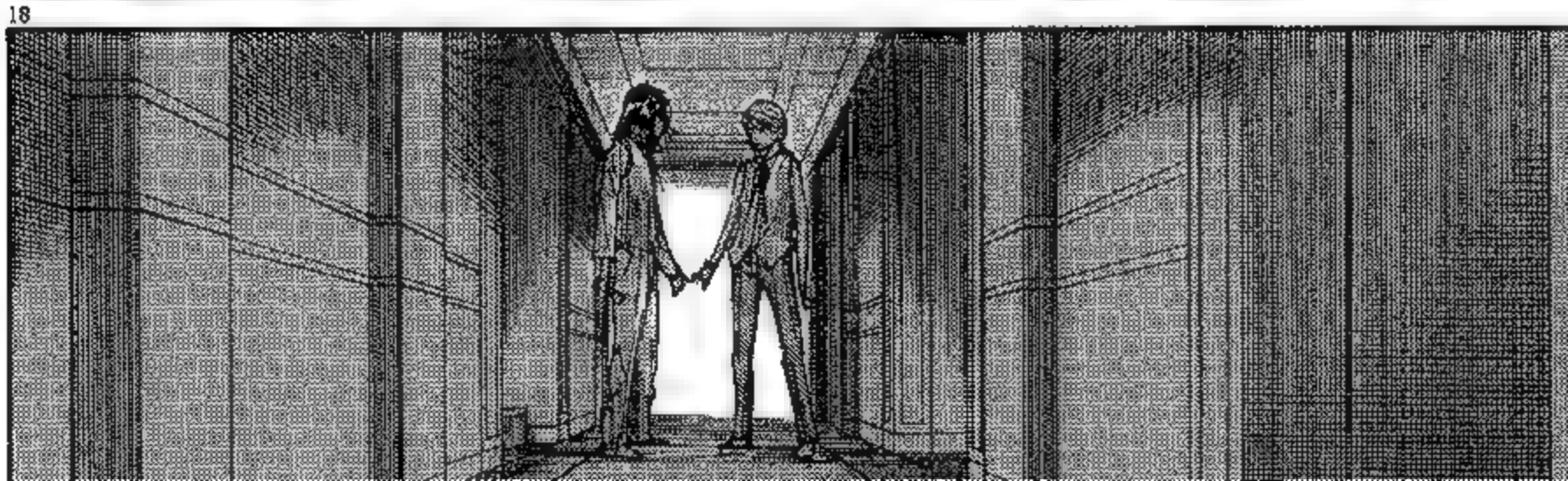
YOU THOUGHT SHE SHOULD DIE...

.....

YOU THOUGHT ABOUT IT DIDN'T YOU?

EVEN IF JUST A LITTLE.

...SAY,



YEAH.

DOES AHMAD KNOW?

I DON'T WANT HIM TO KNOW...

IT DOESN'T

AM A MURDERER.

THAT I

YOU JUST NEED TO DEAL WITH 'SHIBANMUSHI'.

I'LL LET EVERYTHING SLIDE.

IT'S NOT AS IF I WANT TO ARREST YOU OR ANYTHING.

THEN EVERYONE WHO KNOWS THE TRUTH WILL BE GONE

DO YOU KNOW WHY SHE ADOPTED ME...?

DO YOU.

SHE KEPT
HAD DIED.

NO...

AHA-
HAHA-
HAHA

AHA-
HAHA-
HAHA

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CHAPTER 59 – WILLFUL NEGLIGENCE

FU FU FU FU.

FU FU FU,

HA HA HA HA

AHA HA HA HA

DID YOU HATE HER THAT MUCH?

WHEN SHE ADOPTED ME

I WAS 10 YEARS OLD

AND OFFERED ME EDUCATION.

SHE GAVE ME WARM MEALS.

MY STEPMOTHER WAS VERY NICE TO ME.

SO I THOUGHT I NEED TO TRY AND BECOME A WOMAN

I WANTED TO LIVE UP TO HER EX-PECTATION.

IN THE END, I COULDN'T BE SOMETHING I'M NOT.

BUT,

IT WAS JUST AGAINST MY NATURE.

OUTERWORLD SCANS

I KNEW

THAT BECAUSE I WAS A FAILURE MY STEPMOTHER WAS LOOKING FOR A REPLACEMENT.

SHE SUPPORTED THE INSTITUTE JUST SO SHE COULD USE HER DISCRETION IN CHOOSING A BEAUTIFUL GIRL.

.....

BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T WANT ANOTHER ONE LIKE YOU.

WHEN I WAS IN CHARGE OF THE ORPHANAGE.

SHE CALLED ME...

SHE ASKED ME IF I COULD SOLVE

A RIDDLE IN THE MANSION.

YOU KNOW, THE ONE WITH THE DIAMOND ON THE CAT'S COLLAR.

I WAS ABLE TO SOLVE IT WITH THAT HINT.

MY STEPMOTHER EMPTIED THE BOOKSHELF AND I NOTICED THE RELIEF OF A BLACK CAT,

I BECAME COMPLETELY ENGROSSED IN IT.

YOU'RE A GENIUS!

THAT'S AMAZING!

COME, LET'S GO AND TAKE A LOOK INSIDE.

I WAS HAPPY

I FELT LIKE THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME OUR HEARTS WERE CONNECTED

I NEVER KNEW SHE HAD SUCH A DARKISH SIDE TO HER

6

NOPE!

YOU AREN'T AFRAID AT ALL, ARE YOU?

IT'LL BE ALRIGHT

ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALRIGHT TO GO THIS DEEP IN?

THAT IS AMAZING!

YOU REALLY ARE LIKE A BOY

MY ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT GAVE ME THE COURAGE

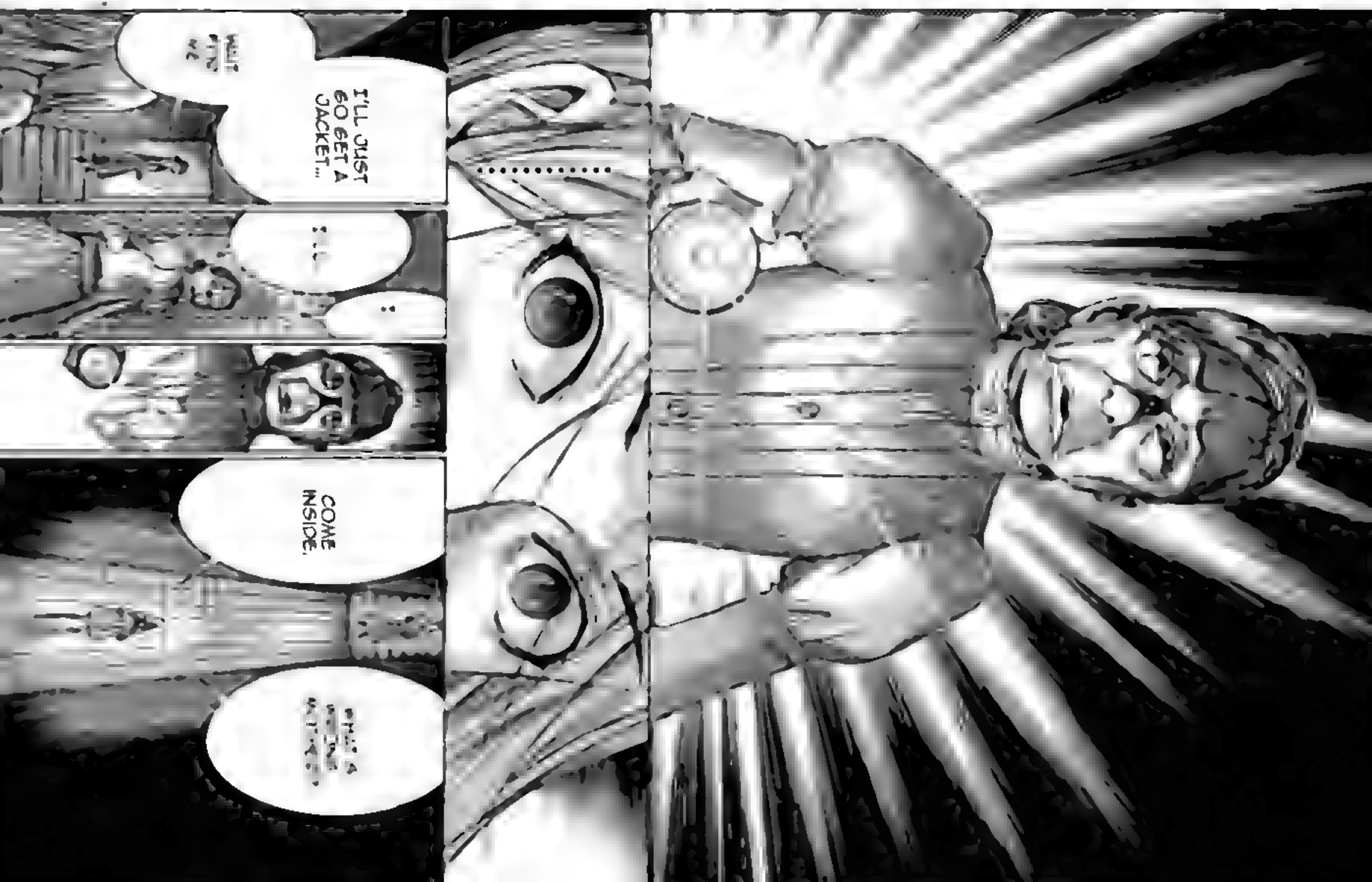
TO GO AS DEEP AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT STOPPING!!

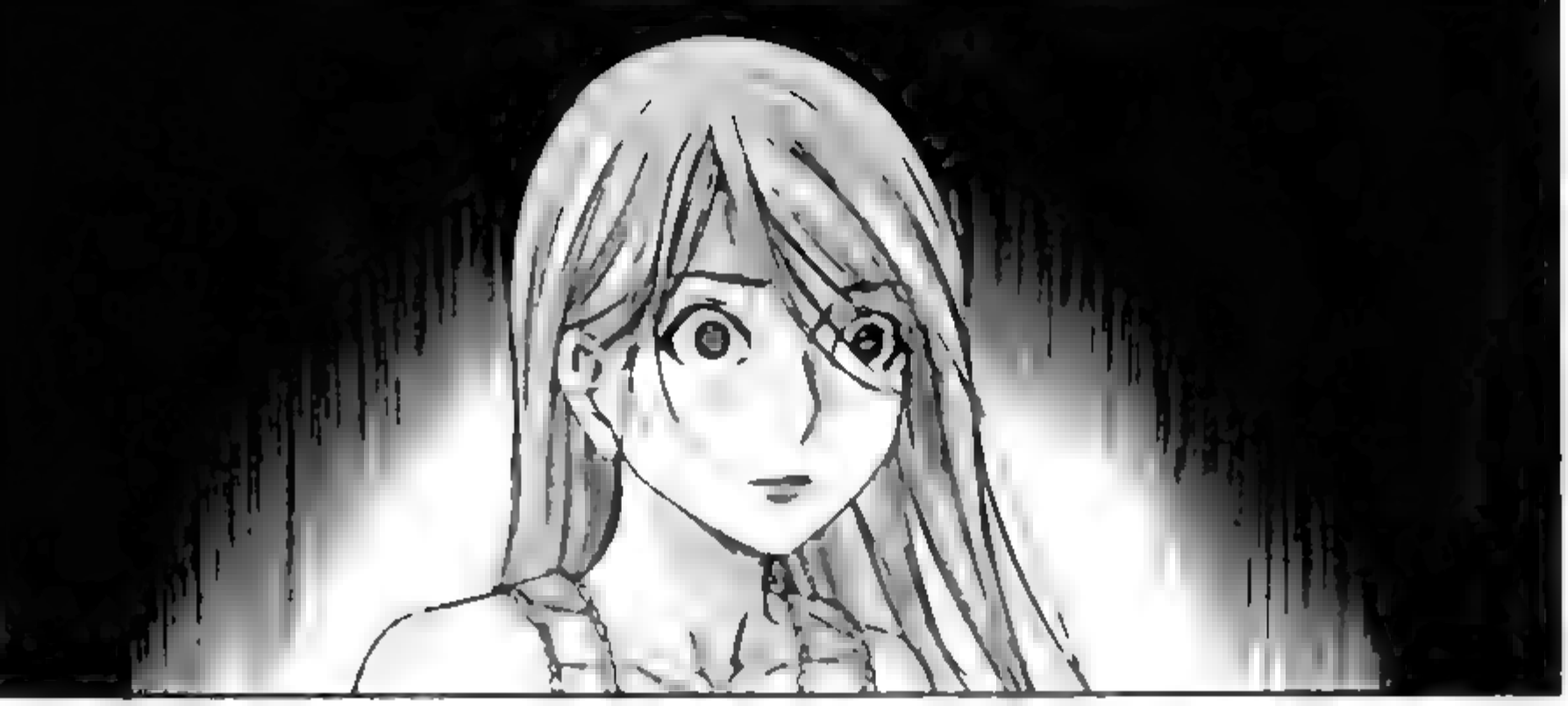
THAT I'M LIKE A GUY

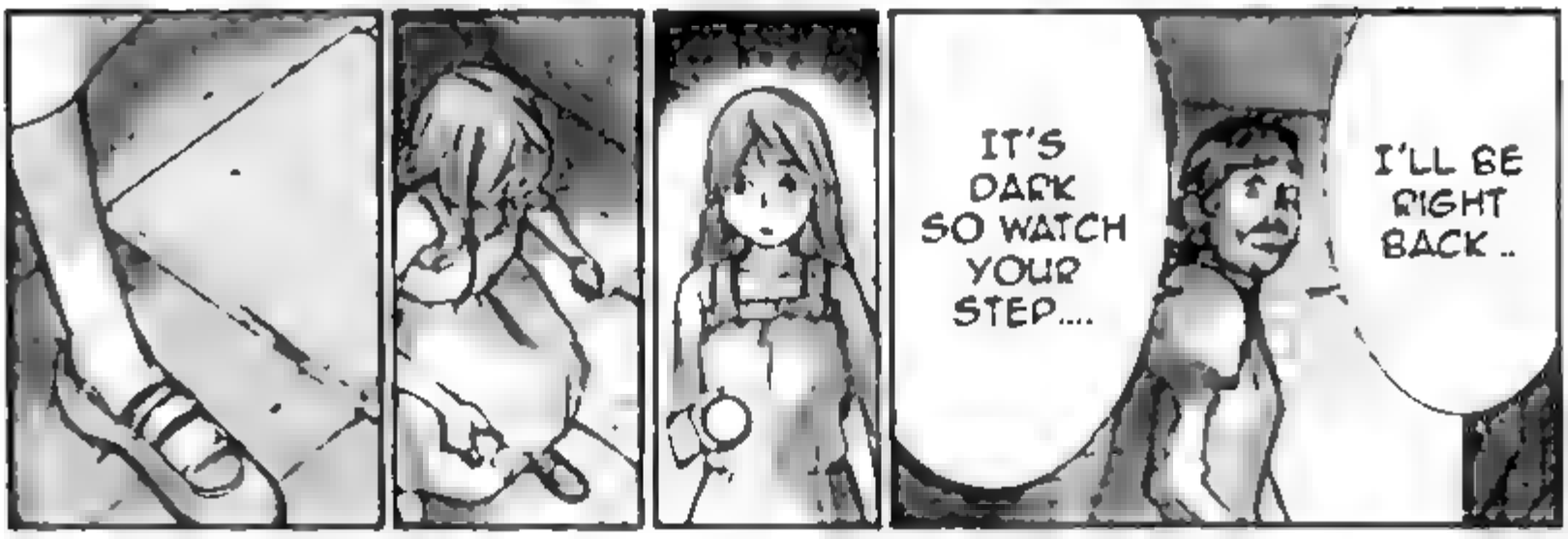
SHE IS HAUNTY

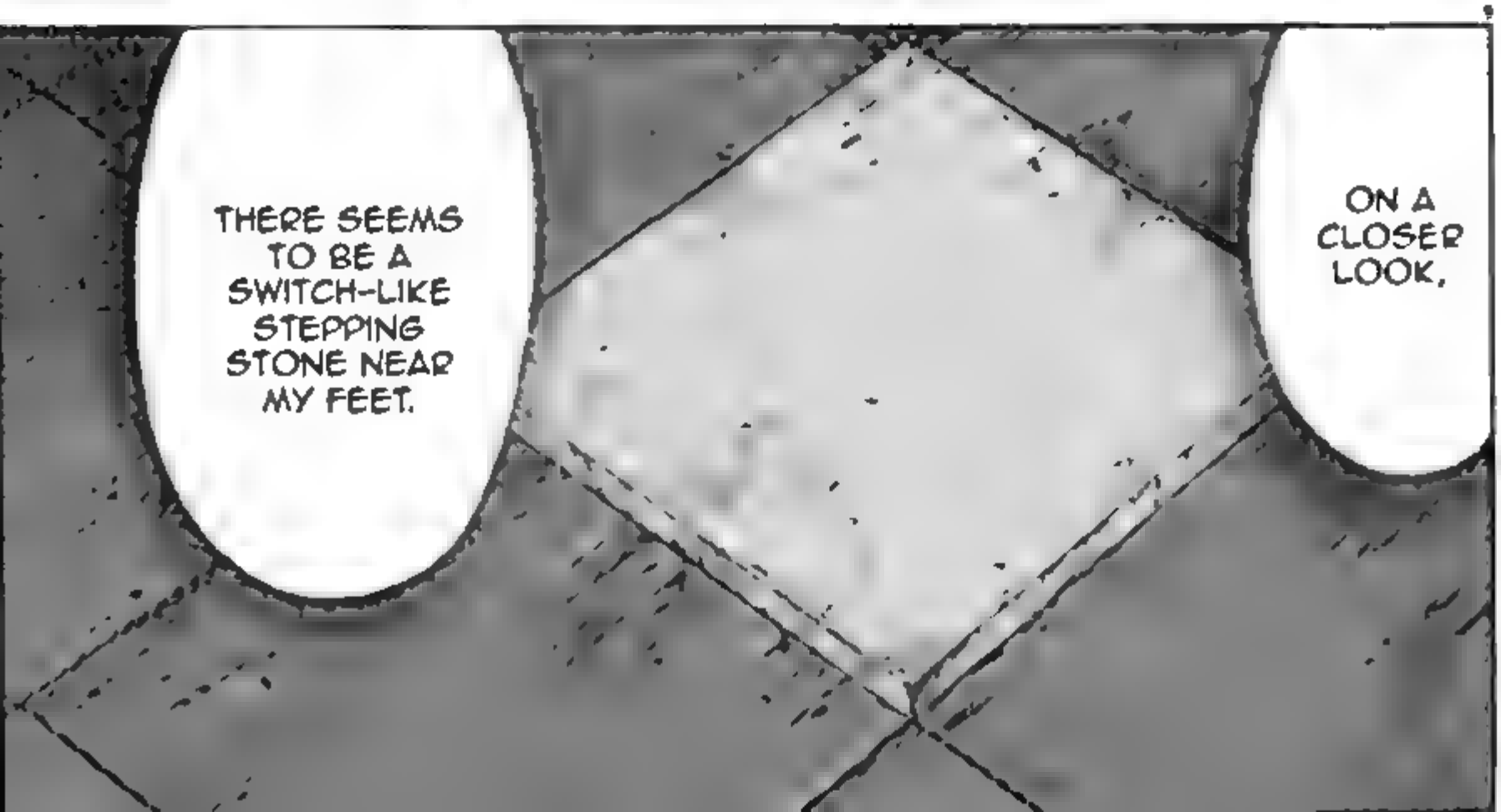
I WAS FOOLISH

TO THINK THAT WAY


COME INSIDE.
I'LL JUST GO GET A JACKET...
.....




IT'S DARK SO WATCH YOUR STEP....
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK..


THERE SEEMS TO BE A SWITCH-LIKE STEPPING STONE NEAR MY FEET.
ON A CLOSER LOOK,

YOU SHOULDN'T PLAY AROUND.

THIS PLACE IS VERY DANGEROUS.

DON'T DO IT ME.

PUT GUNS

THAT THIS PLACE IS DANGEROUS.

SIGH— NOTHING [illegible]

THAT'S WHAT I FELT

I'LL DIE IN HERE!!

ONCE SHE CLOSES THAT DOOR, IT'S OVER

SHE'S LEAVING!

WHAT SHOULD I DO? I WON'T MAKE IT!

THERE'S A SPIDER!!!

NOOOO OOO!!!

MOTHER I'M SCARED, HELP ME!!

EW!! AW

THERE'S SOME- THING ON MY FACE!

IT'S SO DARK, I'M SCARED!

NOOO

THE LIGHT'S GONE!!

PRETENDED TO CRY LIKE A WEAK LITTLE GIRL

I

UHA AAA AAA AAA'

MOTHEEEEE'

I GAMBLED

THAT SHE WOULDN'T THROW ME AWAY IF I ACTED LIKE A GIRL.

I GET ON THE MOSS BUSY

SKYE TRANSLATIONS

BUT ON HER ATTACHMENT TO A BEAUTIFUL FEMALE DOLL.

NOT ON HER CONSCIENCE,

I'M SORRY FOR LEAVING YOU ALL ALONE!!

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

AFTER-WARDS.

I CONTINUED TO TRY TO ACT LIKE A GIRL FOR ~~SEVERAL~~ YEARS.

BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO BE LEFT TO DIE AGAIN.

NO, I PRETENDED TO TRY!

YOU DIDN'T FORGET

THE BETRAYAL

AND THAT SHE MADE YOU SCREAM LIKE A LITTLE GIRL.

WAS PRETENDING TO BE ALL NICE.

MY STEP-MOTH-ER.

BUT THEN SHE LURED ME INTO A TRAP AND LEFT ME WAITING WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING.

ON TOP OF THAT TOWER... I ALSO

...THAT IS WHY

AS IF I COULD FORGET SOMETHING LIKE THAT...!!

I SHOULD KEEP HER WAITING FOR A WHILE

THOUGHT

INSTEAD OF TOSSING YOU INTO THAT MAZE

WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER OFF THROWING YOU OUT OF THE HOUSE.

THAT WOMAN...

SHE THOUGHT IT WAS PARTIALLY [illegible] BEING A MONSTER.

A SEVERE ILLNESS THAT CAUSED ME TO BE MORE [illegible] WITH EACH PASSING YEAR.

[illegible] I WAS SICK.

ONE LAST QUES-TION

[illegible]

IT WOULD BRING HER A LOT OF SHAME IF MY CONDITION WERE MADE PUBLIC.

I DON'T KNOW.

WHOSE BODY WAS IT THAT YOU USED AS YOUR SUBSTITUTE?

WITH ME DEAD, THE INVESTIGATION WOULD BE CLOSED.

IT WOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN BAD FOR HIM IF I GOT CAUGHT.

'SHIBAN-MUSHI''S VICTIM MAYBE?

AND GOT THE BODY OF A YOUNG WOMAN THAT LOOKED LIKE ME AS A SUBSTITUTE.

IT'S POS-SIBLE THAT HE WENT TO THE POLICE MORGUE

BUT, IT WAS YOUR HANDWRITING ON THE WILL THAT GOT DELIVERED TO THE POLICE?

I LEFT IT IN THE MANSION BEFORE I LEFT.

.....

WHILE I WENT LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO DIE...

...

'SHIBAN-MUSHI' PROBABLY FOUND IT

I STARTED THINKING

THAT I WANTED TO LIVE!!

WHY DO YOU KEEP THE GUN ON YOU?

SAY, IF YOU DON'T HAVE BUL-LETS,

SO I CAN STILL USE IT TO SCARE THEM.

OUR ENEMIES DON'T KNOW IT'S EMPTY,

.....

THAT'S NOT IT.

USE YOUR HEAD A BIT.

ISN'T THAT A BULLET IN YOUR POCKET?

I WAS GOING TO ASK.

TH-THIS IS...

...AH.

I THOUGHT YOU USED UP ALL YOUR BULLETS...

YOU PLANNED ON BETRAYING US!

YOU PRE-MEDITATED DECEP-TIVE!

YOU'RE DOING IT!

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.

YOU'RE LYING.

NO, THIS IS LIKE A PROTECTIVE CHARM.

MY FATHER BROUGHT IT WITH HIM FROM BATTLE.

.....

I NEVER NOTICED YOU HAD ONE LEFT...

WHY DON'T YOU PUT IT IN.

ISN'T IT WEIRD.

IT'S THE TRUTH.

IT'S NOT AS IF I WAS TRYING TO HIDE IT.

BECAUSE THE GUN'S DIFFERENT, IT WON'T FIT.

REALLY YOUR GUN?

IS THAT

STOP CALL-ING ME THAT.

SAY, MR. PER-VERT...

.....

FUTERWORLD SCANS

IF IT'S NOT MINE, WHOSE DO YOU THINK IT IS?

FROM INSPECTOR JINBABUE.

...IT'S THE GUN YOU TOOK

AND IT WOULD ONLY BE NORMAL TO TRY AND HIDE IT, NOW WOULDN'T IT

IN WHICH CASE IT WOULDN'T BE AT ALL STRANGE IF YOU HAD A BULLET LEFT!

YAMASHI-NA-SAN?

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Chapter 60—The Truth

I KILLED JINBABUE AND STOLE HIS GUN?

THAT'S RIGHT
YOU'RE JINBEAN MURDERER!

I WAS WITH AMANO THE WHOLE TIME, YOU KNOW.

HE MUST'VE USED AN EXCUSE, SAYING HE'D GO AHEAD AND LOOK AROUND, LIKE BEFORE!!

DID HE, AMANO-SAN?

... WELL,

I WAS UNCONSCIOUS FOR A WHILE, BUT I DON'T THINK IT WAS FOR THAT LONG ...

BUT YOU ONLY THINK THAT, RIGHT?

'SHIBANMUSHI' ENTERED THE TOWER AFTER YOU, DID HE NOT?

IN THAT CASE I WOULD'VE HAD TO HAVE GONE OUT AT SOME POINT, NOW WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

..... AHA, I UNDER-STAND.

YOU WANTED TO MAKE US THINK 'SHIBANMUSHI' ENTERED THE TOWER AFTER YOU.

THAT'S WHY WOMEN ARE ...

.....

YOU PROBABLY USED A SECRET PASSAGE OR SOMETHING TO GET OUTSIDE!

AREN'T YOU JUST MAKING ME LOOK LIKE A MURDERER BECAUSE I REJECTED YOU?

SAY, YOU,

YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR SATOKO-SAN!!

.....

SINCE HE'S A COP, HE HAS ACCESS TO ALL THE INFORMATION, INCLUDING THE CRIME SCENES, AND NO ONE WOULD SUSPECT HIM!!

HE'S THE CULPRIT!!

SATOKO-SAN IS SAYING THIS OUT OF DESPERATION, BUT SHE'S ACTUALLY MAKING A LOT OF SENSE...

THAT'S RIGHT, IF THE CULPRIT WERE A COP, THEN A LOT OF THINGS WOULD MAKE SENSE.

A COP?

ARE YOU ALSO SUSPECTING ME, AMANO?

.....

WHY?

I BELIEVE IN YAMASHINA-SAN.

BECAUSE HE'S NOT THE TYPE TO KILL AN INNOCENT PERSON.

YOU TWO ...

AREN'T YOU ACTUALLY TOGETHER?

THAT'S RIGHT!

SO THAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP!!

THAT'S THE REASON YOU'RE STILL WEARING WOMEN'S CLOTHING.

NO WAY, THAT'S DISGUSTING! GO AWAY!!

AAA AH

I'M SURROUNDED BY PERVERTS!!

HELP ME, HELP ME!

I'LL BECOME WEIRD TOO!

I CAN'T BE THE ONLY DECENT PERSON AROUND HERE!!

THAT'S RIGHT
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE.

AS AN ORDI-NARY PERSON

YOU'RE THE WEIRDEST AMONG US ALL.

RIGHT NOW, THIS TOWER IS FULL OF CRIMINALS, MURDERERS, AND [illegible] DEVIANTS.

YOU FEEL ISOLATED, RIGHT?

WHO LIVE FEELING LIKE THAT EVERY DAY OF THEIR LIVES.

THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD,

RATHER THAN WHOM YOU LOVE,

MAN OR WO-MAN

—SAY, MISSY

ISN'T HOW YOU LOVE THEM

MORE IMPORTANT?

WHO?

I HAVE SOMEONE ELSE I'M IN LOVE WITH.

AND JUST FOR YOUR INFORMATION, AMANO IS NORMAL.

THAT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.

OH NOW
THAT'S
NICE!

HEEEY, TETSUO!!
IT'S TETSUO.

HEEEY!
OVER HERE!

SO, THEY SURVIVED. SUCH BAD LUCK ...
SATOKO, THE DRAG QUEEN, AND THE BOY-LOVER.

HEY
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE AHEAD OF US...WHAT WILL YOU DO, TETSUO?

DO YOU THINK I'LL PRESS YOU?

YOU JUST WANT TO GET A MAN'S LIFE.

IT'S NOT AS IF YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ATONE FOR YOUR SINS BY DYING.

CHEER UP

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BE WITH AMANO ANYWAY.

...WELL,

UNFORTUNATELY YOU CAN NO LONGER BECOME AS BRIGHT AND PURE AS HIM.

YOU PROBABLY WANTED TO BE LIKE HIM, BUT

SAY, WON'T YOU CHOOSE ME?

OK?

YOU'LL ONLY SUFFER.

AND EVEN IF YOU STAY WITH HIM CARRYING THIS SECRET,

AMANO-KUN!

SWOSH

I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT!

SOMETHING

I HAVE

ALWAYS BEEN HIDING THIS

I'VE

HEY, STOP IT

MY TRUE SELF.

MY.

GUTSMOLD SCANS

I AM

.....

WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT

.....

I AM!

THE TRUTH IS!!

THE TRUTH IS,

.....

AND MY HEART,

MY BODY

ARE COMPLETELY

FEMALE.

HEY.

.....

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

STOP IT, TETSUO.

I WANTED TO PROTECT MY CHASTITY FROM MEN,

SO I LIED ABOUT MY HEART BEING MALE.

.....

I'M SORRY.

... UP TILL NOW,

I'VE ONLY BEEN USING YOUR KIND-NESS ... !!

IT'S MARUBE, RIGHT?

HE'S MAKING YOU SAY THIS BY THREATEN-ING YOU.

THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT!!

.....

THE TETSUO YOU KNOW

NOT EVEN IF HIS LIFE DEPENDED ON IT, WOULD HE?

WOULD NEVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!

IT'S A LIE

I WILL

LIVE TOGETHER WITH MARUBE-SAN.

TETSUO!!

EH?
EH?

.....

.....

IS THIS THE ONLY WAY TO ATONE FOR YOUR SINS?

I'LL SPEND MY WHOLE LIFE LIVING AS A WOMAN

JUST LIKE MY MOTHER WISHED.

HEY.

YOU DON'T TELL HIM ANYTHING.

MAKE SURE

24

COME TO YOUR SENSES!

TETSUO!

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Chapter 61 - Difference

TETSUO!

WAIT!!

THE TWO OF THEM D[illegible]APPEARED INTO THE [illegible]

IT'S [illegible]

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WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET WAY OVER THERE, DO YOU?

... THOSE TWO ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR THE TREASURE.

IF WE CONTINUE ON THIS PATH WE'LL MEET EVENTUALLY.

WHERE ...

TO CHASE AFTER THEM!!

TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU'VE BEEN HIDING, AMANO.

MORE IM-POR-TANT-LY,

COULD IT BE,

EH?

THE MURDERER?

I SEE.

THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?

SHE WAS WEARING MEN'S CLOTHING.

HEY

THAT WAS FUJIWARA KEIKO?

TETSUO'S HEART IS THAT OF A MAN.

AND HE DIDN'T WEAR MEN'S CLOTHING IN ORDER TO RUN.

TETSUO DIDN'T KILL ANYONE

I BELIEVE IN HIM!

the English language, the Japanese don't use "him" or "her" when referring

sistent and because that's how I see him Though do keep in mind

"her" in this case.

THAT WAS OBVIOUSLY A LIE.

BUT BEFORE, TETSUO SAID BOTH HER BODY AND HEART WERE FEMALE ...

HE MUST'VE HAD A REASON FOR SAYING THAT!!

HE'S A MAN BORN IN A WOMAN'S BODY!!

THIS MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO COMPRE-HEND, BUT

I JUST KNOW IT...

.....

YOU LIKED HIM, RIGHT?

I'M BEGGING YOU, DON'T LOOK AT TETSUO LIKE THAT.

SATOKO - SAN,

NEW!

BUT I DON'T WANT TO HURT TETSUO-SAN....

I ... DON'T WANT TO FALL FOR A WOMAN. ABSOLUTELY NOT.

I CAN'T THINK OF HIM AS A GENTLEMEN ANYMORE.

ALL THE GUYS AROUND ME — LIKE THAT

THAT'S WHY HE REMINDED ME OF TAKASHI, WHO DIED AS A BOY.

SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.

I WONDERED IF HE WERE ALIVE.

WOULD HE HAVE HAD THOSE LEGS —

SO. HE

WILL REMAIN A YOUNG BOY, WITHOUT EVER MATURING INTO A MAN.

THAT SKIN —

THOSE FINGERS.

OUTERWORLD SCANS

I WANTED TO KEEP DECEIVING MYSELF FOREVER.

IF MY FEELINGS COULDN'T BE ANSWERED,

IT'S NOT

AS IF I EVER THOUGHT THAT TETSUO WOULD UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS BUT

WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR YOU IF HIS HEART WERE ALSO A WOMAN'S?

DIDN'T YOU WANT TO SLEEP WITH HIM?

EH?

ISN'T IT OK?

IF HE SAYS HE'S A WOMAN,

I ALSO FEEL DESIRE TOWARD HIM.

AM CAPTIVATED BY TETSUO'S BEAUTY.

TRUE THAT I

IT'S

TO A TETSUO WHO'S LOST HIS PRIDE

I DON'T FEEL ANY ATTRACTION

BUT,

UNLESS TETSUO'S A MAN.

IT'S NO GOOD.

I'LL LEAD THE WAY FROM HERE ON.

I'LL WAIT FOR YOU IN FRONT OF THE TREASURE.

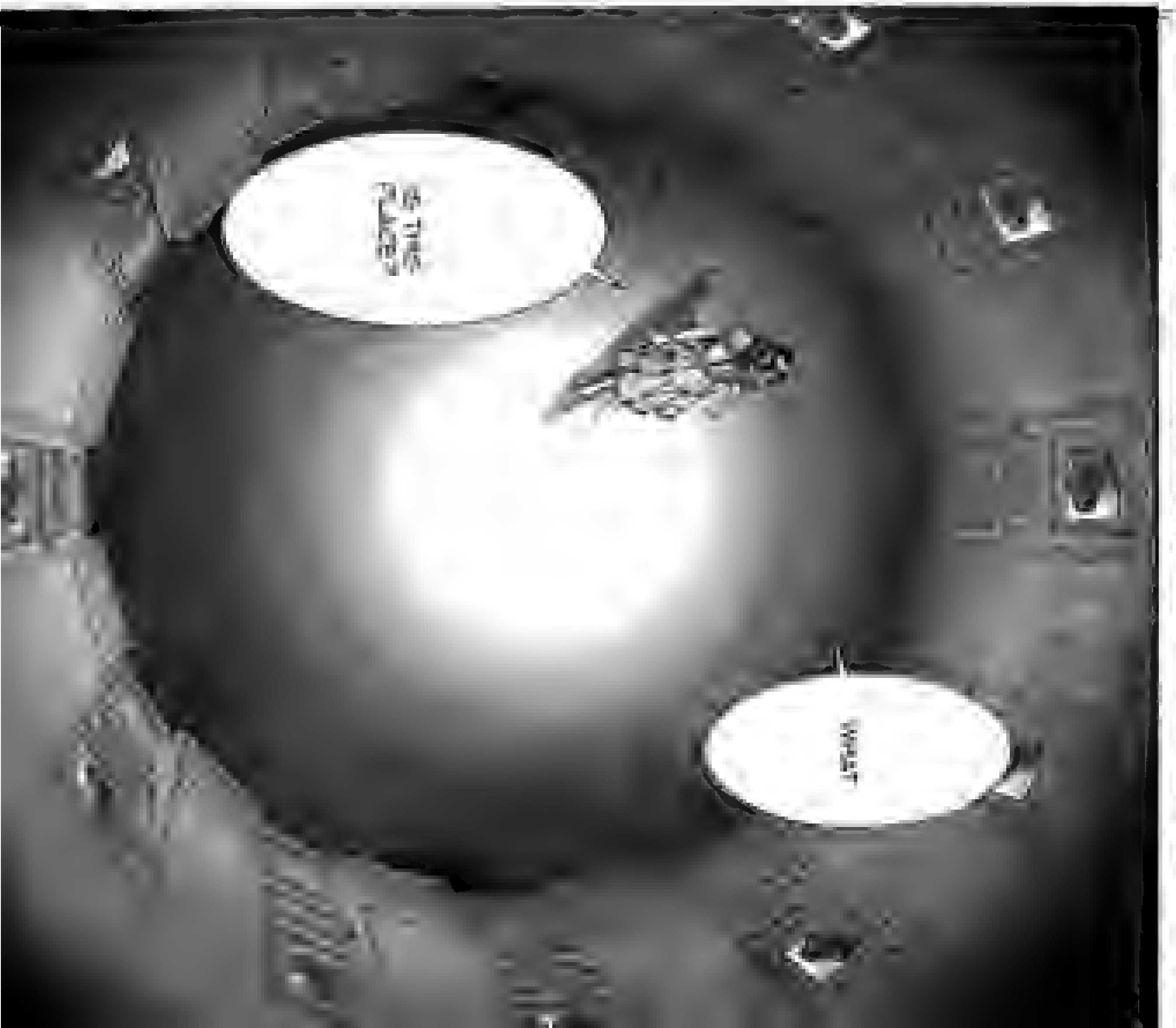
TETSUO

CAN SETTLE THINGS THEN!!

I'M SURE WE

BE CAREFUL AMANO

THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO BUT DOWN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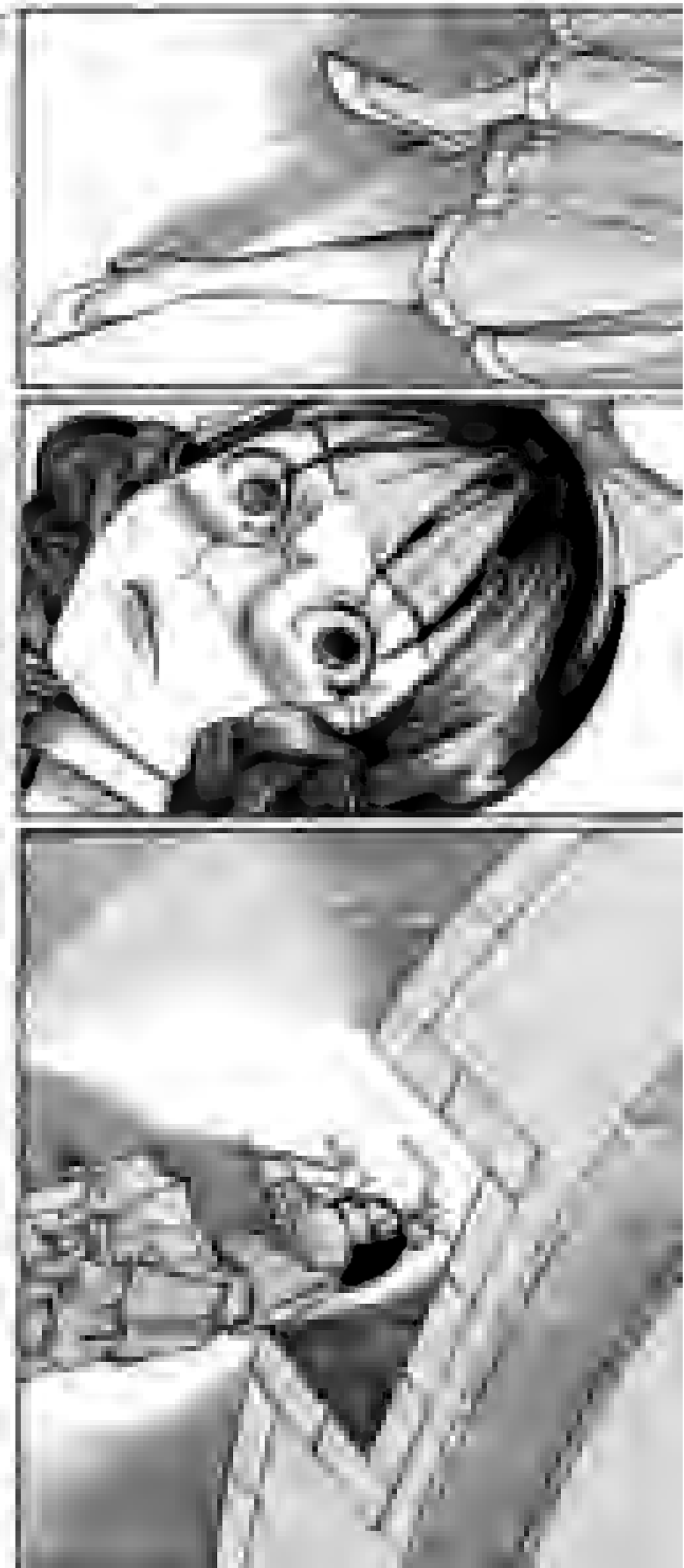

IT FEELS DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE ...

.....

A RELIEF OF A TREASURE BOX ...

IS THIS THE LAST STOP?

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE 1

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

1

SINCE THERE'S A NUMBER '1' WRITTEN, IT MUST MEAN WE NEED TO FIND ONE DIFFERENCE.

IT'S ASKING US TO LOOK FOR THE DIFFERENCE...?

I MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR THE FIRST TIME!

I'M GOOD AT THESE THINGS.

AND THE DOOR WITH THAT RELIEF LEADS TO THE TREASURE.

PROBA-BLY ...

DOES THAT MEAN THAT ONLY 1 OF THE 12 RELIEFS IS DIFFERENT?

THEY ALL LOOK THE SAME ...

.....

AND SO'S THE OUTER APPEARANCE OF THE BOX.

THE CONTENTS ARE THE SAME,

IT MIGHT BE IT'S NOT THE RELIEF THAT'S DIFFERENT, BUT THE DOOR ...

I DON'T GET IT ..

DAMN IT.

I'M NOT WILLING TO RISK MY LIFE ON THAT KIND OF STUPID REASONING!!

THIS IS THE ONLY DOOR WITH SOMETHING WRITTEN ABOVE IT!!

COULD IT BE THIS?

NONE OF THEM LOOK DIFFERENT.

12 DOORS

DOORS.

CLOCK

CLOCK TOWER

XII

12

12TH

.....

ME AND AMANO WILL WAIT UPSTAIRS.

THEN YOU OPEN IT.

BUT THERE'S NOTHING ELSE, IS THERE!?

WHAT'S DIFFERENT...?

I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT ...

IT'S NO GOOD.

UP

DOWN

THERE WAS ALSO A CLOCK BENEATH THE MANSION.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,

DOWN,

DOWN HUH...

WHY WAS IT THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE ...

OUTERWORLD SCANS

CÍRCULO
11 62.

.....

IS THAT IT ... ?

IF YOU COUNT FROM THE DOOR WITH THE NUMBER ONE ...

1、

2、

3、

.....

WHAT IS IT?

4!

IT'S THIS DOOR.

THIS ROOM REPRESENTS A CLOCK.

THAT'S RIGHT,

IN A ROUND ROOM.

TWELVE DOORS

WHY IS IT THIS DOOR?

IT'S THE SAME AS ALL THE OTHERS.

.....
FOUR
?

ON THE CLOCK TOWER'S CLOCK,

AND,

THE NUMBER FOUR IS DIFFERENT.

I GOT STUCK ON THIS BEFORE!!

YOU ...

THIS PROBABLY ISN'T THAT KIND OF 'SPOT THE DIFFERENCE' ...

HOWEVER, ON THIS CLOCK, THEY USED I AND V.

IT'S PRETTY UNCOMMON ON A CLOCK.

IF YOU LOOK AT A CLOCK WITH ROMAN NUMERALS

YOU'LL OFTEN SEE FOUR LINES (IIII) FOR THE NUMBER FOUR.

THERE WAS ANOTHER CLOCK BENEATH THE MANSION, RIGHT?

I'M SAYING THAT BECAUSE I COMPARED IT TO A DIFFERENT CLOCK

I UNDER-STAND THAT

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF IT ACTUALLY WANTS US TO SPOT A PROPER DIFFERENCE?

BESIDES, CLOCKS WITH I AND V AREN'T THAT UN-USUAL.

THE NUMBER FOUR WAS WRITTEN WITH FOUR LINES.

DO YOU REMEM-BER IT?

YET THE NUMBER FOUR WAS DIFFERENT.

THE CLOCK WAS MADE BY THE SAME PERSON,

THAT THIS IS THE ANSWER WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

MAKES SENSE.

.....

... THAT,

I SAW BOTH CLOCKS BUT ...

.....

I NEVER NOTICED THAT ...

.....

YOU TWO SHOULD GO OUT JUST IN CASE.

CLICK

I'M NOT MISTAKEN.

BE BRAVE ...

[The Ghost Tower]
Volume-7 - End

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